

## HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

### Notice of Intended Action

**Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”**

**Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 234.6 and 237A.5(2)“d,” the Department of Human Services proposes to amend Chapter 110, “Child Development Homes,” and Chapter 170, “Child Care Services,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The purpose of these amendments is to implement a legislative mandate that the Department conduct national criminal history record checks on all registered child development homes, child care homes, and providers receiving child care assistance payments, starting July 1, 2013.

All persons subject to a record check in registered child development homes and child care homes and persons subject to a record check for the purpose of receiving child care assistance payments will be required to submit fingerprints for a national criminal history record check. All individuals subject to the record check will be responsible for any costs associated with the “rolling” or preparation of the prints. The Department is responsible for the costs of the national criminal history record check.

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before February 12, 2013. Comments should be directed to Harry Rossander, Bureau of Policy Coordination, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. Comments may be sent by fax to (515)281-4980 or by e-mail to [policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us).

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations because none are allowed under the Iowa Code. However, requests for the waiver of any rule may be submitted under the Department’s general rule on exceptions at 441—1.8(17A,217).

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 237A.5(2)“d”(1), 237A.5(2)“d”(4)(c), and 237A.13.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Rescind subrule 110.7(3) and adopt the following **new** subrule in lieu thereof:

**110.7(3) Record checks.**

*a. Applicability.* The department shall conduct Iowa criminal history record and child abuse record checks for each registrant, substitute or staff member, anyone living in the home who is 14 years of age or older, and anyone having access to a child when the child is alone. The department shall conduct national criminal history record checks, based on fingerprints, for each registrant, substitute or staff member, anyone living in the home who is 18 years of age or older, and anyone 18 years of age or older having access to a child when the child is alone. In accordance with Iowa Code section 726.23, minors under the age of 18 will not be subject to the fingerprint requirement.

(1) The purpose of these record checks is to determine whether the person has committed a transgression that prohibits or limits the person’s involvement with child care.

(2) The department may also conduct criminal history record and child abuse record checks in other states and may conduct dependent adult abuse, sex offender registry, and other public or civil offense record checks in Iowa or other states.

(3) Effective July 1, 2013, registration or renewal certificates shall not be issued until the results of all state and national record checks have been received and, when necessary, evaluated.

*b. Authorization.* The person subject to record checks shall complete Form 595-1396, DHS Criminal History Record Check Form B; Form 470-0643, Request for Child Abuse Information; Form

DCI-45, Waiver Agreement; Form FD-258, Federal Fingerprint Card; and any other forms required by the department of public safety to authorize the release of records.

*c. Iowa records checks.* Checks and evaluations of Iowa child abuse and criminal history records shall be completed before the person's involvement with child care. Iowa records checks shall be repeated at a minimum of every two years and when the department or the registrant becomes aware of any possible transgressions. The department is responsible for the cost of conducting the Iowa records checks.

*d. National criminal history record checks.* Fingerprint-based checks of national criminal history records shall also be completed before a person's involvement with child care. This requirement shall be effective on or after July 1, 2013, for an initial application for registration or a renewal application for registration. The national criminal history record check shall be repeated for each person subject to the check every four years and when the department or registrant becomes aware of any new transgressions committed by that person in another state. The department is responsible for the cost of conducting the national criminal history record check.

(1) The registrant is responsible for any costs associated with the taking (rolling) of fingerprints of all persons subject to record checks and for submitting the prints to the department so the national criminal history record check can be completed. Fingerprints may be taken (rolled) by law enforcement agencies or by agencies or companies that specialize in taking (rolling) fingerprints.

(2) The department shall provide fingerprints to the department of public safety no later than ten business days after receipt of the fingerprint cards. The department shall submit the fingerprints on forms or in a manner allowed by the department of public safety.

(3) The department may rely on the results of previously conducted national criminal history record checks when a person subject to a record check in one child development home or child care home submits a request for involvement with child care in another child development home or child care home, so long as the person's national criminal history record check is within the allowable four-year time frame. All initial or new applications shall require a new national criminal history record check.

*e. Mandatory prohibition.* A person with any of the following convictions or founded abuse reports is prohibited from involvement with child care:

- (1) Founded child or dependent adult abuse that was determined to be sexual abuse.
- (2) Placement on the sex offender registry.
- (3) Felony child endangerment or neglect or abandonment of a dependent person.
- (4) Felony domestic abuse.
- (5) Felony crime against a child including, but not limited to, sexual exploitation of a minor.
- (6) Forcible felony.

*f. Mandatory time-limited prohibition.*

(1) A person with the following conviction or founded abuse report is prohibited from involvement with child care for five years from the date of the conviction or founded abuse report:

1. Conviction of a controlled substance offense under Iowa Code chapter 124.
2. Founded child abuse that was determined to be physical abuse.

(2) After the five-year prohibition period (from the date of the conviction or the founded abuse report) as defined in subparagraph 110.7(3) "f"(1), the person may request the department to perform an evaluation under paragraph 110.7(3) "g" to determine whether prohibition of the person's involvement with child care continues to be warranted.

*g. Evaluation required.* For all other transgressions, and as requested under subparagraph 110.7(3) "f"(2), the department shall evaluate the transgression and make a decision about the person's involvement with child care.

(1) The person with the transgression shall complete and return Form 470-2310, Record Check Evaluation, within ten calendar days of the date on the form. The department shall use the information the person with the transgression provides on this form to assist in the evaluation. Failure of the person with the transgression to complete and return this form within ten calendar days of the date on the form shall result in denial or revocation of the registration certificate.

(2) The department may use information from the department's case records in performing the evaluation.

(3) In an evaluation, the department shall consider all of the following factors:

1. The nature and seriousness of the transgression in relation to the position sought or held.
2. The time elapsed since the commission of the transgression.
3. The circumstances under which the transgression was committed.
4. The degree of rehabilitation.
5. The likelihood that the person will commit the transgression again.
6. The number of transgressions committed by the person.

(4) When a person subject to a record check has a transgression that has been determined in a previous evaluation not to warrant prohibition of the person's involvement with child care and the person has no subsequent transgressions, an exemption from reevaluation of the latest record check is authorized. The person may commence employment with another child care facility in accordance with the department's previous evaluation. The exemption is subject to all of the following conditions:

1. The position with the subsequent employer is substantially the same or has the same job responsibilities as the position for which the previous evaluation was performed.

2. Any restrictions placed on the person's employment by the department in the previous evaluation shall remain applicable in the person's subsequent employment.

3. The person subject to the record check has maintained a copy of the previous evaluation and provides the evaluation to the subsequent employer or the previous employer provides to the subsequent employer the previous evaluation from the person's personnel file pursuant to the person's authorization. If a physical copy of the previous evaluation is not provided to the subsequent employer, the record check shall be reevaluated.

4. The subsequent employer may request a reevaluation of the record check and may employ the person while the reevaluation is being performed.

*h. Evaluation decision.* The department has final authority in determining whether prohibition of the person's involvement with child care is warranted and in developing any conditional requirements or corrective action plan.

(1) Within 30 calendar days of receipt of a completed Form 470-2310, Record Check Evaluation, the department shall make a decision on the person's involvement with child care.

(2) Within 30 calendar days of receipt of a completed Form 470-2310, Record Check Evaluation, the department shall mail to the person subject to an evaluation Form 470-2386, Record Check Decision, that explains the decision reached regarding the evaluation of the transgression and Form 470-4558, Notice of Decision: Child Care.

(3) The department shall issue Form 470-4558, Notice of Decision: Child Care, prohibiting involvement with child care, when the person subject to an evaluation fails to complete the Record Check Evaluation, Form 470-2310, within the ten-calendar-day time frame.

(4) If the department determines, through the record check evaluation process, that the person's prohibition of involvement with child care is warranted, the person shall be prohibited from involvement with child care. The department may identify a period of time after which the person may request that another record check and evaluation be performed.

(5) The department may permit a person who is evaluated to maintain involvement with child care if the person complies with the department's conditions relating to the person's involvement with child care, which may include completion of additional training or an individually designed corrective action plan or both. For an employee of a registrant, these conditional requirements shall be developed with the registrant. All conditions placed on a person's involvement with child care shall be communicated, in writing, to both the person subject to the evaluation and the registrant.

*i. Notice to parents of abuse in care.* If there has been founded child abuse committed by an owner, director, or staff member of the child care facility or child care home, the department's administrator shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of each child for whom the facility or child care home provides care.

(1) The child care facility or child care home shall cooperate with the department in providing the names and addresses of the parent, guardian, or custodian of each child for whom the facility provides child care.

(2) This information shall be provided to the department within ten calendar days from the date of the initial request.

(3) Failure or refusal to provide the requested information may result in revocation of registration.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **170.4(3)“e,”** introductory paragraph, as follows:

*e. In-home care.* The adult caretaker selected by the parent to provide care in the child’s own home shall be sent the pamphlet Comm. 95 or Comm. 95(S), Minimum Health and Safety Requirements for Nonregistered Child Care Home Providers, and Form 470-2890 or 470-2890(S), Payment Application for Nonregistered Providers. The provider shall complete and sign Form 470-2890 or 470-2890(S) and return the form to the department before payment may be made. An identifiable application is an application that contains a legible name and address and that has been signed. Signature on the form certifies the provider’s understanding of and compliance with the conditions and requirements for nonregistered providers that include:

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph **170.4(3)“f,”** introductory paragraph, as follows:

*f. Nonregistered family child care home.* The adult caretaker selected by the parent to provide care in a nonregistered family child care home shall be sent the pamphlet Comm. 95 or Comm. 95(S), Minimum Health and Safety Requirements for Nonregistered Child Care Home Providers, and Form 470-2890 or 470-2890(S), Payment Application for Nonregistered Providers. The provider shall complete and sign Form 470-2890 or 470-2890(S) and return the form to the department before payment may be made. An identifiable application is an application that contains a legible name and address and that has been signed. Signature on the form certifies the provider’s understanding of and compliance with the conditions and requirements for nonregistered providers that include:

ITEM 4. Amend paragraph **170.4(3)“h”** as follows:

*h. ~~Record Iowa records checks for nonregistered family child care homes and in-home care.~~* If a nonregistered child care provider wishes or a person who provides in-home care applies to receive public funds as reimbursement for providing child care for eligible clients, the provider shall complete and submit to the department Form 470-0643, Request for Child Abuse Information, and Form 595-1489 or 595-1489(S), Non-Law Enforcement Record Check Request, Form A, for the provider, for anyone having access to a child when the child is alone, and for anyone 14 years of age or older living in the home. The department worker or the PROMISE JOBS worker shall provide the necessary forms. The provider shall return the forms to the department worker or PROMISE JOBS worker. Records checks shall be repeated for each person subject to the check every two years and when the department or provider becomes aware of any new transgressions committed by that person.

~~(1) If any of these individuals has a record of founded child abuse, a criminal conviction, or placement on the sex offender registry, the department shall perform an evaluation following the process defined at 441—subrule 110.7(3).~~

~~(2) If any of the individuals would be prohibited from registration, employment, or residence, the person shall not provide child care and is not eligible to receive public funds to do so. The department’s designee shall notify the applicant.~~

~~(3) A person who continues to provide child care in violation of this law is subject to penalty and injunction under Iowa Code chapter 237A.~~

ITEM 5. Adopt the following new paragraph **170.4(3)“i”**:

*i. National criminal history record checks for nonregistered child care homes and in-home care.* If a nonregistered child care provider or a person who provides in-home care applies to receive public funds as reimbursement for providing child care for eligible clients, the provider shall complete Form DCI-45, Waiver Agreement, and Form FD-258, Federal Fingerprint Card, for the provider, for anyone 18 years of age or older who is living in the home, or for anyone having access to a child when the child is alone.

(1) The provider or other person subject to this check shall submit any other forms required by the department of public safety to authorize the release of records.

(2) The provider or other person subject to this check is responsible for any costs associated with obtaining the fingerprints and for submitting the prints to the department.

(3) Fingerprints may be taken (rolled) by law enforcement agencies or by agencies or companies that specialize in taking fingerprints.

(4) The national criminal history record check shall be repeated for each person subject to the check every four years and when the department or provider becomes aware of any new transgressions committed by that person in another state.

(5) The department may rely on the results of previously conducted national criminal history record checks when a person subject to a record check in one child development home or child care home submits a request for involvement with child care in another child care home, so long as the person's national criminal history record check is within the allowable four-year time frame. All initial or new applications shall require a new national criminal history record check.

ITEM 6. Adopt the following new paragraph **170.4(3)“j”**:

*j. Transgressions.* If any person subject to the record checks in paragraph 170.4(3)“h” or 170.4(3)“i” has a record of founded child abuse, dependent adult abuse, a criminal conviction, or placement on the sex offender registry, the department shall follow the process for prohibition or evaluation defined at 441—subrule 110.7(3).

(1) If any person would be prohibited from registration, employment, or residence, the person shall not provide child care and is not eligible to receive public funds to do so. The department's designee shall notify the applicant.

(2) A person who continues to provide child care in violation of this rule is subject to penalty and injunction under Iowa Code chapter 237A.